

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract with the following Replacement Abstract:

ABSTRACT

At the time of cutting stacked sheet members, a knife or a punch pierces the sheet members at positions such as along a cutting line, in a region outside the cutting line, or in a seam allowance inside the cutting line. By moving the knife or the punch vertically, heat is applied to the sheet members such that the seam members are welded together vertically. [¶] Even if at the time of cutting stacked sheet members having low air permeability, it is possible to prevent warpage or slippage of the sheet members, and cutting is performed accurately.